Detailed Project Report(s) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme in Nepal, jointly. In addition, JPO-SKSKI has also been entrusted the task of carrying out the Feasibility Level Study of Kamala Multipurpose (Dam) Project and the Preliminary Study of Bagmati Dam Project in Nepal.

(c) Does not arise.

Study on inter-linking of rivers' programme

230. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has conducted study on the economic impact of Inter-Linking of Rivers' Programme;

(b) if so, whether NCAER had completed the study and submitted its reports to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government on the report submitted by the NCAER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The report was submitted by NCAER in April, 2008. The conclusions/ recommendations given by NCAER in its report mention various benefits of Interlinking of river programme such as additional benefits of Irrigation and Power, increase in growth rate of agriculture, growth of direct & indirect employment, improvement in the quality of life of people in rural areas and mitigation of floods & drought. The recommendations also include certain action points like setting up National Commission for Basin management, improving cost recovery from irrigation projects & formation of Water Users Association. At present, no interlinking project under National Perspective Plan (NPP) is under implementation. Therefore, the stage has not come for taking decision on the action points suggested in the report.

Project report on inter-linking of rivers

231. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has spent several crores during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of feasibility and detailed project report of river links under Inter-linking of Rivers' Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of feasibility and project report of inter-linking of rivers; and

(d) the time by which the task of/inter-linking of rivers is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 45.45 crore during XI Plan up to 31st January, 2009 for preparation of Pre-feasibility/Feasibility/Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of river links under National Perspective Plan (NPP) and intrastate links.

(c) NWDA after carrying out various preliminary studies has identified 30 links under National

Perspective Plan (16 links under Peninsular Component and 14 links under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed.

DPR of one priority link namely Ken-Betwa has also been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two priority links namely Par-Tapi-Narmada links & Damanganga-Pinjal links which is planned to be completed by December, 2011.

(d) The implementation of interlinking of rivers depends on the consensus and cooperation of the concerned States and agreement with neighboring countries.

Construction of dams on Godavari

232. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to invoke provisions of the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act to stop construction of Babli and 11 other barrages on the Godavari river by the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the request; and

(c) what action his Ministry has taken on the above request so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh vide their letter dated 27.5.2005 brought to the notice of Ministry of Water Resources that the Government of Maharashtra had taken up construction of 11 new barrages across main river Godavari including Babhali Barrage in violation of the inter-State agreement dated 6.10.1975 between the two States.

(c) The following actions have been taken by Ministry of Water Resources and Central Water Commission (CWC) in this regard:

i. The Member Water Planning and Project (WP&P), CWC convened two interstate meetings in this regard with the technical officers of the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Andhra Pradesh on 11.7.2005 and 5.10.2005.

ii. Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources convened an interstate meeting in this regard with the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra on 4.4.2006.

iii. The Chairman, CWC convened two meetings of technical committee constituted to look into these issues with the representatives of the Government of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh on 26.4.2006 and 19.5.2006.

iv. The Chairman, CWC convened another meeting with the representatives of the Government of Maharashtra and Government of Andhra Pradesh on 21.9.2006 in this regard.

Meanwhile, the Government of Andhra Pradesh filed an Original Suit under Article 131 of Constitution against State of Maharashtra and Union of India and Others. In the Suit, the State of Andhra Pradesh has prayed to the Court to grant a permanent injunction restraining the State of Maharashtra from undertaking or proceeding with the construction of Babhali Barrage within the reservoir water spread area of Pochampad Project. The Hon'ble Supreme Court heard the matter on 26th April, 2007 and passed the order that the State of Maharashtra may go ahead with the